

**EXHIBIT “16”**

**Deposition Transcript of Elinor Pernitsky taken on February 7, 2025**

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

JOSEPH S. AUTERI, M.D. : No. 22-cv-03384  
Plaintiff, :  
 :  
vs. :  
 :  
VIA AFFILIATES, d/b/a : JURY TRIAL  
DOYLESTOWN HEALTH : DEMANDED  
PHYSICIANS :  
Defendant. :

- - -  
Friday, February 7, 2025  
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Deposition of ELINOR PERNITSKY,  
taken pursuant to notice, at the law offices  
of Kaplin Stewart Meloff Reiter & Stein,  
P.C., 910 Harvest Drive, Blue Bell,  
Pennsylvania, before Michele L. Murphy, a  
Registered Professional Reporter and Notary  
Public, on the above date, beginning at  
approximately 9:00 a.m.

- - -

1 recall.

2 BY MS. RUSSELL:

3 Q. Did you in fact report on  
4 November 18th, 2021 to the Board of Trustees  
5 at the hospital that Dr. Auteri did not  
6 provide notice of vaccination and did no  
7 longer have medical staff privileges at  
8 Doylestown Hospital? Did you report that?

9 A. I did not. I did not attend the  
10 Board meetings.

11 Q. So the letter says here that your  
12 action will be reported. Did anyone report  
13 that?

14 A. I wasn't at the meeting, so I don't  
15 know.

16 Q. Okay. I will represent to you that  
17 Dr. Auteri's employment was terminated on  
18 November 18th, 2021. Do you know how that  
19 came to be?

20 A. I do not.

21 Q. Do you know who participated in the  
22 decision to terminate Dr. Auteri's employment?

23 A. I do not.

24 Q. Did you have any discussion with  
25 anyone at or about the time that you issued

1 the letter in front of you terminating  
2 Dr. Auteri's privileges, did you have any  
3 discussion with anyone about how you could  
4 accommodate Dr. Auteri's exemption request and  
5 allow Dr. Auteri's medical staff privileges to  
6 remain in place?

7 A. I did not.

8 Q. Why not?

9 A. Why would I not have a conversation  
10 about accommodation?

11 Q. My question to you was, as you were  
12 preparing this letter, did you have any  
13 discussions with anyone about how Dr. Auteri  
14 could be accommodated such that Dr. Auteri  
15 could maintain his medical staff privileges at  
16 Doylestown Hospital?

17 A. I did not.

18 Q. Why not?

19 A. That would not be in the scope of my  
20 role.

21 Q. What was the scope of your role as  
22 it related to terminating the medical staff  
23 privileges of a physician at Doylestown  
24 Health?

25 A. I was following the process that had

1 letter talk about accommodations? Is  
2 that what you're asking me?

3 BY MS. RUSSELL:

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. I do not believe it did.

6 Q. And your letter doesn't talk about  
7 accommodations either?

8 A. That's true.

9 Q. So by your letter, you terminated  
10 Dr. Auteri's medical staff privileges at  
11 Doylestown Hospital effective immediately?

12 MR. BROWN: Objection;  
13 mischaracterizes prior testimony.

14 BY MS. RUSSELL:

15 Q. Is that correct? Was that the  
16 substance of this letter?

17 A. I sent the letter that -- yes. I  
18 sent the letter that terminates his  
19 privileges, yes.

20 Q. Okay. So in terminating  
21 Dr. Auteri's medical staff privileges at  
22 Doylestown Hospital, did you take into  
23 consideration Dr. Auteri's exemption request  
24 and accommodations to the mandate?

25 MR. BROWN: Objection;

1 mischaracterizes prior testimony.

2 You can answer.

3 THE WITNESS: So I would say I  
4 did not, because I also told you that I  
5 had never seen these other documents  
6 before.

7 BY MS. RUSSELL:

8 Q. As you were preparing to send this  
9 letter to Dr. Auteri, did you ever contact  
10 Dr. Auteri and say, hey, what's going on?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did you ever contact Dr. Auteri and  
13 say, Dr. Auteri, I'm going to have to  
14 terminate your medical staff privileges today?  
15 Did you do that in form or substance with  
16 Dr. Auteri?

17 MR. BROWN: Objection;  
18 argumentative.

19 THE WITNESS: I did not. I did  
20 not have -- as I told you, I started  
21 there in March. I did not have a  
22 relationship with Dr. Auteri that that  
23 would be appropriate. And none of his  
24 requests came anywhere near me, so how  
25 would I -- no, we did not have that kind